

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3400
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2001
NUTRITION SUPPORT TO PRIMARY EDUCATION
CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH;VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Centrally funded scheme for nutritional support to primary education is aimed at improving the nutritional status of school going children and to improve enrolment and retention at primary stages;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether out of the targeted 11.5 crore children, only about 2 crore children are being provided with cooked or processed food;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefore;
- (e) whether the Food Corporation of India has held up supply of food grains to States;
- (f) if so, the reasons therefore; and
- (g) the corrective measures being taken to revamp the scheme?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) &(b). Yes, Sir. As per the guidelines of the scheme, local bodies are expected to develop institutional arrangements providing cooked/pre-cooked food within a period of two years from the date of commencement of the programme in the local areas. However, in the interim period, as a prelude to the provision of cooked/ pre-cooked food in the school, food grains at the rate of 3Kgs. per student per month may be distributed at all children of classes I to V subject to a maximum attendance of 80 per cent.

(c) &(d). Currently Gujarat, Kerala, Chattisgarh (Tribal Blocks), Madhya Pradesh (Tribal Blocks), Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Lakshadweep are distributing cooked meals. In Delhi, processed food is being distributed. Other States/UTs are still continuing with distribution of food-grains as they are not able to mobilise resources due to financial constraints. This issue has been taken up with the State Governments concerned.

(e), (f)&(g). During July to September 1998, the supply of food grains by FCI had been temporarily suspended in States/UTs due to problems relating to reconciliation of lifting figures and non - release of funds to FCI which was subsequently restored.